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KASCOE

Kansas Association of FSA County Office Employees

www.kascoe.org

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July 6, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

As employees of the Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) and members of the Kansas affiliate of the National Association of FSA County Office Employees (NASCOE), the following comments are presented regarding successful implementation of a National Animal Identification Program (NAID).

FSA offices have been involved with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) since the 1930's. We have successfully administered many different programs for USDA and our track record in successful implementation of these programs speaks for itself.

Working in cooperation with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other private entities, FSA can ensure a successful private-state-federal partnership is attainable, reliable and workable. An alliance such as this would provide a secure, efficient, and inexpensive animal identification program at the very 'grass roots' of our great country.

FSA's abilities, include, but are not limited to:

- **LOCATION:** FSA has accessible locations in almost every county and parish in the United States,
- **PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:** FSA has repeatedly implemented livestock programs in disastrous times. It has a proven track record of successfully delivering programs of a National scope effectively and efficiently.
- **COST FACTOR:** FSA already has the technology, infrastructure, and people in place to efficiently and economically implement an NAID with minimal expenses in comparison to the costs involved with "reinventing the wheel!"
- **GIS/GPS:** FSA has actively been educating, training, and implementing Global Imaging System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) tools in each of our locations nationwide. These tools can provide a method of tracking premises, animal movement, and trace back ability within a matter of seconds if circumstances warrant.
- **TRUST:** FSA already has a personal relationship and trust with the farmers and ranchers of the United States. FSA employees stand ready and willing to make this program successful and a model for other unique alliances, and to provide confidence to the American consumers regarding the safety of our Nation's food supply.

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As you move forward with the implementation of National program of this magnitude and demands, please consider the technology, employees, and consumer trust already available at FSA. The abilities of our employees who live and work with a "Can Do" attitude, and our successful, proven track record of service provided to the farmers and ranchers of this great Country will ensure your successful implementation of this program which will help our Nation's food supply remain affordable and SAFE!

Sincerely,

Darin N. Slack
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